

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SSM-03 IO-13 SCCT-01 AID-05 /080 W
----- 048581

R 310550Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0913

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, QAN US, XF
SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR ON ARAB SUMMIT, GULF AFFAIRS, ETC.

1. SUMMARY: AMIR OF QATAR EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR TWO-STAGE ARAB SUMMIT, COMMENTED ON GULF AND OTHER INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS, AND CONDEMNED QADHAFI. END SUMMARY.

2. ON AUG 30, I HAD 45-MINUTE MEETING WITH AMIR OF QATAR, SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD AL THANI.

3. GENERAL DISCUSSION TOUCHED ON FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:
A. ARAB SUMMIT. AMIR EXPRESSED PREFERENCE FOR TWO-STAGE MEETING-FIRST AND MOST URGENT TO INCLUDE EGYPT, SYRIA AND PLO, WITH SAUDI AND KUWAITI MEDIATORS, TO SORT OUT EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN DIFFERENCES WITHIN CONTEXT OF
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LEBANESE PROBLEM. SECOND AND FULL MEETING, WHICH ACCORDING

KHALIFA LESS URGENT, WOULD DEAL WITH SUCH PROBLEMS AS WESTERN SAHARA. AMIR SAID HE FEARED FULL SUMMIT WOULDN'T GET VERY FAR IN RESOLVING CRUCIAL EGYPTIAN/SYRIAN/POL PROBLEM, WHICH PRESENTLY FOCUSED IN LEBANON. KHALIFA STATED THAT FORMAT AND TIMING OF MEETING, OR MEETINGS, WOULD BE WORKED OUT BY ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN CAIRO IN EARLY SEPT.

B. LIBYA. KHALIFA ASSERTED THAT "AN END MUST BE PUT TO QADHAFI THE MADMAN". AMIR OBSERVED THAT SOVIETS, HAVING LOST OUT IN EGYPT AND PRESENTLY LOSING OUT IN SYRIA AND IRAQ, WERE NOW USING LIBYA AS THEIR INSTRUMENT TO KEEP ARAB WORLD IN TURMOIL. HE ALSO EXPRESSED FEAR THAT SOVIETS WERE ACTIVATING IRANIAN COMMUNISTS TO DISRUPT AREA AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF US PREOCCUPATION WITH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TO STIR UP TROUBLE IN MIDDLE EAST.

C. GULF AFFAIRS. ACCORDING KHALIFA, GULF IS PLEASINGLY TRANQUIL. POSTPONEMENT OF GULF FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HAD NOT RPT NO PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE. IT WAS JUST THAT MORE URGENT PROBLEMS OF ARAB WORLD AND PROSPECTIVE SUMMIT TOOK PRIORITY. AMIR NOTED THAT KUWAIT WAS "MOVING CLOSER" TO OTHER GULF STATES IN COOPERATIVE VENTURES, AND THIS WAS POSITIVE FACTOR. (COMMENT: AMIR HAS BEEN SHARPLY CRITICAL OF WHAT HE REGARDS AS ARROGANT KUWAITI ATTITUDES TOWARD GULF NEIGHBORS. END COMMENT) EMPHASIZING THAT IT WAS HIS PERSONAL OPINION, KHALIFA OPINED THAT AMIR OF KUWAIT'S DISSOLUTION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CURBING OF PRESS, AND REVISION OF CONSTITUTION, WOULD FURTHER GOK'S TOGETHERNESS WITH LOWER GULF STATES. KHALIFA THEN DELIVERED HIS STANDARD LECTURE ON THE DANGERS OF TOO RAPID DEMOCRATIZATION, AND BENEFITS OF GRADUALISM IN PASSING ANY AUTHORITY TO REPRESENTATIVE BODIES.

D. U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. KHALIFA SAID THAT HE WAS FOLLOWING CAMPAGIN VERY CLOSELY. HE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAD PICKED UP SUBSTANTIALLY IN PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, AND COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT'S EXPERIENCE MUST NOW BE TELLING WITH ELECTORATE. I ASSURED AMIR THAT IN FOREIGN POLICY FIELD THERE WAS GENERAL IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN CANDIDATES.

E. SHAYKH JASIM. AMIR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR OUR ASSISTANCE DURING SHAYKH JASIM'S ILLNESS AND TREATMENT IN DENVER, AND FOR EXCELLENT CARE HE HAD RECEIVED THERE. HE SAID IT WAS CLEAR TO HIM AND FAMILY THAT THE ODDS HAD BEEN AGAINST SHAYKH JASIM EVEN THOUGH HE HAD THE BEST CARE
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AVAILABLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DOHA00913
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760329-1200
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976084/aaaaacyk.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMIR OF QATAR ON ARAB SUMMIT, GULF AFFAIRS, ETC.
TAGS: PFOR, QA, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006